

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

[24]

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

Thursday, March 19, 2026.

Met at twenty-six minutes past eleven o'clock A.M. (Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair) (having been appointed, by the President, under authority conferred by Senate Rule 4, to perform the duties of the Chair).

The Chair (Mr. Brownsberger), members, guests and staff then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Distinguished Guests.

There being no objection, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Ms. Kennedy for the purpose of an introduction. Ms. Kennedy then introduced, in the rear of the Chamber, Amanda Berg and Kate Weldon LeBlanc of The Endometriosis Alliance of Massachusetts (TEAM). Ms. Berg and Ms. LeBlanc were recognized for their advocacy and leadership in elevating the voices and lived experiences of those navigating endometriosis and have pushed for greater awareness, research, and accountability in our healthcare system. The Senate welcomed them with applause and they withdrew from the Chamber.

Amanda Berg and Kate Weldon LeBlanc.

Reports.

The following reports were severally received and placed on file, to wit:

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Barnstable County Correctional Facility, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received March 18, 2026);

DPH,-- Barnstable County Inspection report. SD3776

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant to Section 92(p) of Chapter 71 of the General Laws) submitting its report on the implementation and fiscal impact of innovation schools (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received March 18, 2026);

DESE,-- Innovation Schools FY25 report. SD3777

Report of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (pursuant Section 288 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) submitting its Feasibility of No-Cost Testing Requirements for Educator Candidates report (a copy having been forwarded to the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Education) (received March 18, 2026);

DESE,-- No-Cost Testing Requirements report. SD3778

Report of the Health Policy Commission (pursuant to Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the fourth deliverable of the Primary Care Access, Delivery, and Payment Task Force (Primary Care Task Force) report (copies having been forwarded to the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing) (received March 18, 2026); and

HPC,-- PCTF fourth deliverable. SD3779

Report of the Department of Public Health (pursuant to 105 CMR 451.403) submitting the inspection report for Northeastern Correctional Center, the Plan of Correction (POC) from the facility and the POC acceptance letter from the Division of Environmental Health Regulations and Standards (EHRS) (received March 19, 2026).

DPH,-- Northeastern Correctional Facility Inspection report. SD3780

Reports of Committees.

The following reports were received the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 2907, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establish credible service for eligible police officers and firefighters (Senate, No. 3019);

Public Service,--
study.

By Mr. Finegold, for the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate Nos. 305 and 308, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to economic development and emerging technologies matters (Senate, No. 3023);

Economic
Development and
Emerging
Technologies,--
study.

By Mr. Crighton, for the committee on Transportation (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 2905, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to providing for mobile driver's licenses in the commonwealth (Senate, No. 3024); and

Transportation,--
study.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committee on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently (under Joint Rule 10), on Senate No. 1664, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Cannabis Policy to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to establishing a special commission to ensure the safety and sustainability of non-profit public events (Senate, No. 3025);

Rules of the two
branches, acting
concurrently,--
study.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on Senate, Nos. 1826, 1837, 1842, 1843, 1866, 1894 and 2582, an Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Public Service to make an investigation and study of certain current Senate documents relative to public services matters (Senate, No. 3020) [Senator Eldridge dissenting in so much as relates to Senate, Nos. 1843, 1866 and 1894];

Public Service,--
study.

Referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

By Mr. Brady, for the committee on Public Service, on petition, a Bill relative to the retirement classification of certain employees of the city of Beverly (Senate, No. 1876) [Local approval received]; and

Beverly,-- fire
alarm operators.

By the same Senator, for the same committee, on petition, a Bill relative to the town of Yarmouth Division of Natural Resources employees (Senate, No. 2712) [Local approval received];

Yarmouth,--
Division of
Natural Resources
employees.

Severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

Committees Discharged.

Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Transportation to make an investigation and study of a certain current Senate document relative to prohibiting video recording or broadcasting while driving (Senate, No. 3007); and

Transportation,--
study.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Order relative to authorizing the joint committee on Aging and Independence to make an investigation and study of certain a current Senate document relative to improving transparency and accountability for residents of long-term care (Senate, No. 3012);

Aging and Independence,-- study.

And recommending that the same severally be referred to the committee on Rules.

Severally, under Senate Rule 36, the reports were considered forthwith and accepted.

Mr. Cyr, for the committee on Housing, reported, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3022) of Sal N. DiDomenico and Pavel M. Payano for legislation to create the engaging neighborhoods, organizations, unions, governments, and households fund,-- and recommending that the same be referred to the committee on Community Development and Small Businesses.

ENOUGH Act.

Under Senate Rule 36, the reports were considered forthwith and accepted. Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5261) of Joseph D. McKenna, Ryan C. Fattman and Paul K. Frost (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the town charter in the town of Oxford,-- **was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.**

Oxford,-- charter.

Bills

Enhancing public safety in the town of Stoneham (House, No. 2800,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Stoneham,-- public safety.

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Constantinos Papadopoulos (House, No. 4267,-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Boston,-- Constantinos Papadopoulos.

Directing the city of Boston fire department to waive the maximum age requirement for firefighters for Stylianos Katikakis (House, No. 4582,-- on petition) [Local approval received]; and

Boston,-- Stylianos Katikakis.

Regarding the appointment of Special Police Officers in the City of Malden (House, No. 4584, amended-- on petition) [Local approval received];

Malden,-- special police officers.

Were severally read and, under Senate Rule 26, placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were considered forthwith and adopted, as follows:-

Resolutions (filed by Mr. O'Connor) "congratulating Grant Marshall on his elevation to the rank of Eagle Scout."

Grant Marshall.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Engrossed Bills.

The following engrossed bills (both of which originated in the House), having been certified by the Senate Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were severally passed to be enacted and were signed by the Acting President (Mr. Brownsberger) and laid before the Governor for her approbation, to wit:

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Luis Cabral (see House, No. 4349); and

Bills laid before the Governor.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Establishing a sick leave bank for Sally Desrosiers, an employee of the department of correction (see House, No. 4962, amended).

Communication.

The Clerk read the following communication:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

Senator Michael
F. Rush,-- military
leave.

Michael D. Hurley
Clerk of the Senate
State House, Room 335

March 18, 2026

Clerk Hurley,

Please accept this correspondence which I respectfully request to have read in Senate Session, tomorrow March 19. I also request that it be printed in the Senate Journal.

“I am on orders with the United States Navy this week for required training and will not be present or able to vote during formal session. If I was able, I would vote in the affirmative on S.3014, *An Act promoting pet equity, treatment, and safety.*”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Regards
Michael F. Rush
State Senator
Norfolk and Suffolk District

Matters Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matters were taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill providing for recall elections in the town of Rutland (Senate, No. 2789),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Rutland,-- recall
elections.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The Senate Bill extending the time for the town of Boxford to grant 2 additional licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (Senate, No. 2913),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed.**

Boxford,-- liquor
licenses.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

The House Bill directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Jason DeLeon (House, No. 4142),-- **was read a third time and passed to be engrossed, in concurrence.**

Boston,-- Jason
DeLeon.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation relative to youth social media safety.

Social media,--
youth safety.
SD3759

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Cronin, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on The Judiciary.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that Joint Rule 12 be suspended on the Senate petition of Ryan C. Fattman and John J. Marsi for legislation to establish a sick leave bank for Stephanie Rivera, an employee of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office.

Stephanie Rivera,-
- sick leave.
SD3754

Senate Rule 36 was suspended, on motion of Mr. Cronin, and the report was considered forthwith. Joint Rule 12 was suspended; and the petition (accompanied by bill) was referred to the committee on Public Service.

Severally sent to the House for concurrence.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order granting the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate document numbered 1662, relative seat belt requirements on school buses (Senate, No. 2793),-- ought to be adopted.

Public Safety and
Homeland
Security,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Tarr, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 2743 and 2861, relative to public safety and homeland security matters (Senate, No. 2912),-- ought to be adopted.

Id.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Cronin, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Health Care Financing until March 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 149, 690, 691, 706, 763, 784, 789, 799, 810, 819, 866, 889, 1484, 2623, and 2632, relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 2929),-- ought to be adopted.

Health Care
Financing,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Friedman, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order, granting the committee on Health Care Financing until May 1, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 687, 734, 831, 1390, 1497, and 1502, relative to health care financing matters (Senate, No. 2964),-- ought to be adopted.

Id.

The rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Friedman, and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Orders of the Day.

The Orders of the Day were considered as follows:

Bills

Relative to the nomination process for candidates for town meeting in Milford (House, No. 4185);

Designating a certain overpass in the town of Sandwich as the U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Raymond G. Tourville Veterans Memorial Overpass (House, No. 4374);

Directing the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Angela C. Depina (House, No. 4388);

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Angel G. Rivera (House, No. 4389);

Authorizing Nick Santos to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4390);

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Alex J. Rodriguez (House, No. 4391);

Authorizing Anthony Morales to take the civil service examination for the position of police officer in the city of Haverhill notwithstanding the maximum age requirement (House, No. 4442);

Relative to the charter of the town of Westborough (House, No. 4751);

Permitting the city of Revere to establish penalties and liens for rooming house and certificates of fitness ordinance violations (House, No. 4752);

Relative to the charter of the town of Westwood (House, No. 4753); and

Providing for a town administrator in the town of Hopedale (House, No. 4784);

Were severally read a second time and ordered to a third reading.

The Senate Bill designating October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day (Senate, No. 2145),-- was read a third time.

After remarks, the question on passing the was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at one minute past twelve o'clock noon, on motion of Mr. Feeney, as follows to wit (yeas 38 – nays 0) [Yeas and Nays No. 141]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.
Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.
Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.

Second reading bills.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.

Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Rodrigues, Michael J.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E. – 38.

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Rush, Michael F.

Velis, John C. – 2.

**The yeas and nays having been completed at twelve minutes past twelve o'clock noon, the bill was passed to be engrossed.
Sent to the House for concurrence.**

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the following matter was considered as follows:

Resolutions.

The following resolutions (having been filed with the Clerk) were considered forthwith:-

Resolutions (filed by Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Collins, Ms. Creem, Messrs. Crighton, Cyr, DiDomenico, Eldridge, Feeney, Fernandes, Finegold, Gómez, Jehlen, Keenan, and Lewis, Ms. Lovely, Messrs. Moore, O'Connor, Oliveira, and Payano, and Ms. Rausch) “commending the Endometriosis Alliance of Massachusetts for its recognition of March 2026 as Endometriosis Awareness Month.”

The Chair (Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Howard, Ms. Rausch and Ms. Jehlen) then read the following resolutions, as follows:

RESOLUTIONS COMMENDING THE ENDOMETRIOSIS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2026 AS ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, THE ENDOMETRIOSIS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS WILL RECOGNIZE MARCH 2026 AS ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, ENDOMETRIOSIS IS A CHRONIC AND DEBILITATING DISEASE IN WHICH TISSUE SIMILAR TO THE LINING OF THE UTERUS GROWS OUTSIDE THE UTERUS, CAUSING SEVERE PAIN, INFLAMMATION, FATIGUE AND POTENTIAL INFERTILITY; AND

WHEREAS, ENDOMETRIOSIS AFFECTS APPROXIMATELY 1 IN 10 WOMEN AND INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH WORLDWIDE, YET IT IS FREQUENTLY UNDERDIAGNOSED AND MISUNDERSTOOD, OFTEN RESULTING IN DELAYS IN DIAGNOSIS AND THERE IS NO KNOWN CURE FOR ENDOMETRIOSIS; AND

WHEREAS, THE ENDOMETRIOSIS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS IS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THOSE LIVING WITH ENDOMETRIOSIS THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY, WHILE WORKING TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS, PROMOTE EARLY DIAGNOSIS, EXPAND ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS AND SUPPORT ONGOING RESEARCH; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATE HEREBY COMMENDS THE ENDOMETRIOSIS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF MARCH 2026 AS ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH; AND BE IT FURTHER

Endometriosis
Alliance of
Massachusetts.

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO THE ENDOMETRIOSIS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The resolutions were then adopted.

Orders of the Day

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops (Senate, No. 2720),-- was read a second time.

There being no objection, during consideration of the Orders of the Day, the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) handed the gavel to Mr. Mark for the purposes of an introduction. Mr. Mark then introduced Mr. Jonathan Lane from Revolution 250, a non-profit consortium of over 70 organizations—including historical societies, museums, and government agencies—dedicated to commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in Massachusetts.

Pet safety.

Jonathan Lane.

Remarks of Senator Paul W. Mark.

Well, thank you, Mr. President. One of my many duties here in the Senate over the last three years has been to serve as the Co-chair of the special Commission on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The American Revolution Commission was actually filed as an amendment here in this chamber by our friend and colleague Senator Collins from South Boston. And over the past couple of years, I've been honored to serve on this Commission alongside Senator Fattman, Senator Barrett, former Senator Ed Kennedy, and then Senator Nick Collins as well. And our task has been to support the Commonwealth and encourage activities to make sure that we recognize the events that happened right here in Massachusetts that led to the American Revolution and the independence of our country. So we had fantastic events celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. We had fantastic events celebrating the 250th anniversaries of the first shots of the Revolution in Lexington and in Concord. And as my father would have said, the bloodiest fighting of the Revolution was actually at the Jason Russell House in Arlington, where he was from originally. And we had a great event over the last couple of months memorializing the 250th anniversary of the Knox Trail. And what is the Knox Trail, you ask? Boston was under siege for 11 months after Bunker Hill, the British came into town and hunkered down. The first general of the Continental Army, George Washington, came up with a plan. He asked a gentleman named Henry Knox to go from here in Boston to Fort Ticonderoga in New York, where they gathered all of the cannons and artillery present and then using the technology of 1776 in the winter, carried that artillery through New York State over the border. Where I was honored to accept dignitaries from New York, where we had a ceremony recognizing the 250th anniversary of the crossover from New York into Massachusetts. And then continued on with those cannons crossing the Connecticut River, crossing across the entire state of the colony of Massachusetts to fortifying Dorchester Heights here in Boston. And when the British saw those cannons, they said, "Oh my goodness, we're going to leave". And they evacuated Boston forever 250 years ago on March 17th. Thank you, Senator Collins. And so throughout these events, throughout these wonderful events celebrating the history of this country, which all began here in Massachusetts, has been our great friend and our great partner, Jonathan Lane from Revolution 250. And so we would like to thank you for your excellent work and ask you to say a few words, probably with better detail and specifics than I just did on the events of the last couple of years. Thank you, John.

Remarks of
Senator Paul W.
Mark.

Remarks of Jonathan Lane.

Remarks of
Jonathan Lane.

It is a humbling privilege to be here today to speak to the Senate, and I appreciate all of the help and support that I've gotten from various members of the Senate over the last 10 years that we've been working on this 250th anniversary. So I'm going to just dispense one quick order of business for your support. And following along the Henry Knox trail and being a supporter, the Berkshires turned out splendidly, filled a theater of over 600 people at the Mahaiwe Theater on our day in Great Barrington. It was a great event, but we have created the Henry Knox Heavy Metal Tour T-shirt called "Guns and Horses", and we'd love to give a copy of what it contains, all the communities from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, in recognition of Knox's journey 250 years ago. I'd love to deliver one to you. Any of the other Senators who are interested in having one, just let Senator Collins know. I've left a bunch with him, to share these. Because it is, you know, it's such an important moment here. And I just want to take this opportunity to remind the Senate Chamber that it's not just about what has already happened. Senator Mark very ably discussed the massacre of the Tea Party, Lexington, Concord, Battle of Bunker Hill. All these things have been commemorated. Knox and his epic journey and finally Evacuation Day. But that's not the end of the story. That's really just the beginning of the story. And it's crucial that Massachusetts maintain its role as a leader in this 250th anniversary. You're going to hear people from Philadelphia tell you that democracy and liberty began in Philadelphia. Which is we all know, and I say this with all due respect to my friends in Philadelphia, everything that happens leading up to the Declaration of Independence and many of the things that happened leading to the siege of Yorktown happened because the people of Massachusetts led the way. And so we should continue to lead the way this 250th. There are a whole host of events that are going to be happening. Just this year alone. We've got a Patriots Day coming back around. They're going to do the 251st, obviously, but we've also got the Battle of Gloucester. We're going to have Treaty Day in Watertown, where they're going to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States first treaty signed in Watertown by members of the Provincial Congress. Your precedents, on behalf of the Continental Congress with the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet people. We've got the Declaration of Independence coming to Massachusetts. There are events around the Declaration of Independence beginning with the end of June all the way through June, July 18, and 19. We encourage you to find ways to participate and to support and to recognize the leadership role of the people of Massachusetts 250 years ago and today. Thank you very much for your time.

On motion of Mr. Collins, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Remarks of Senator Nick Collins.

I also want to just say thank you to both the Senate Chair of the Commission on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, who's done admirable work going from the corner of Massachusetts out West to the edge in Boston, as well as inviting the people from New York over the border. I had the opportunity to visit Ticonderoga with a contingent from Massachusetts. Some who were invited, some who came on their own, and it was incredible to see how many people showed up. Similar to Knox's noble train of artillery, where he picked up support along the way and back from every city and town in Massachusetts. I'm also grateful for the project that Rev 250 is working on to provide, if I'm not mistaken, a copy of the Declaration of Independence to each city in town. 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. So everybody will be able to partake in that. And just to speak to, as Jonathan Lane mentioned, how this training began 10 years ago. I was a lot more parochial back then.

Remarks of
Senator Nick
Collins.

I filed a piece of legislation on the Commission for the Revolution that only included Boston. And I learned very quickly from my colleagues from Lexington, Concord and other parts of Massachusetts how important that was to them. So I'm glad that it, you know, sprung a discussion and, and really came full circle where the whole state is involved. Thank you both for your work and I appreciate you coming today. Thank you.

On motion of Mr. Eldridge, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

Orders of the Day

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops (Senate, No. 2720),-- was further considered.

Pet safety.

Remarks of Senator Pavel M. Payano.

Thank you, Madame President, and through you to the members. I rise today in support of the Pets Act, which includes elements from a bill I filed, an Act to Maintain Stable Housing for Families with Pets.

Remarks of
Senator Pavel M.
Payano.

This bill before us represents a major step forward for both pets and pet owners. Close to 10 years ago, I met someone, a being, who changed my life and became a member of my family. Her name is Teja, she was a grey pit bull, who, at the end of the month, will be the anniversary of me losing her, unfortunately. She was one of the best things in my life; she was loyal, she was gentle, she was family.

I remember what it felt like when I was apartment hunting in Lawrence, seeing listing after listing prohibiting pit bulls like Teja, not because of anything she had done. Not because of her behavior or her history, but because of what Teja looked like, because of her breed. I remember doing the quite painful math in my head, crossing off homes, crossing off apartment listings, and having the feeling where I had to choose between stable housing and a member of my family. And those were impossible choices, and I thank God that at the time, I had a really good job that allowed me to basically have more choices than others. But that feeling stayed with me. When I talked to families across the First Essex District and across this Commonwealth, I know that I'm not alone in that experience. I've seen families have to leave their apartments because of a new policy their landlords implemented, or be in a new situation where they have to surrender their pet, not because they don't love their pet, but because, in order to find an affordable place, they have to let go of their dog. So this experience isn't unique to me. Families in my district are still being denied access to housing or even facing eviction simply because they have a pet. No family should have to choose between a home and a member of their family. Especially when those animals have never harmed anyone.

And the evidence backs it up. It shows no meaningful link between a dog's breed and the likelihood of a bite. The American Veterinary Medical Association has said clearly that the best predictor of a dog's behavior is an evaluation of that individual dog, not its breed. In fact, studies have shown that even experienced shelter staff incorrectly identified a dog's breed three out of four times when compared to a DNA test. Many of the people in my circle, in my network, in my city, don't have the five thousand dollars or more to buy a purebred dog. So usually, the types of dogs we get are mutts, dogs we're adopting, or dogs people are giving away. When you're asked what type of breed your dog is, you kind of look and say: "I think that it might be a mix of this and that," but you don't really know, yet decisions are being made on what a dog looks like, not necessarily how that dog is going to behave when they're around. We're making serious decisions about housing, about insurance, about

people's lives, just based on these visual guesses that experts themselves cannot reliably make.

The PETS Act takes an important step toward fixing that. It prohibits breed discrimination in state-aided public housing. It ensures that insurance companies cannot deny coverage, cancel policies, refuse to renew a policy, or raise premiums based solely on a dog's breed. It also directs the executive office on housing and livable communities to study the real impact of pet-related fees in both public and private rental housing. Housing providers will still be able to act on a dog's actual behavior. Insurers will still be able to consider whether a dog has been declared dangerous or has a documented history of harm. What they cannot do, under this bill, is make those decisions based on appearance alone. And I feel like this is a fair line to draw. No family should have to surrender a pet they love because the rules are based on assumptions that the evidence does not support. No seniors should lose a companion animal because of a policy that was never grounded in fact. And no one should have to go through what I went through with Teja, doing math in their head, about whether their home and their family can exist in the same place.

I want to express my gratitude to the Senate President and our Chair of Ways and Means for prioritizing these important protections. I would also like the Gentleman from the Cape and Islands, the Gentleman from Weymouth, the Gentleman from New Bedford, and the Gentlewoman from Needham for their work on this bill. I want to thank my House colleagues, Representatives Dave Rogers and Sam Montano, for their partnership on this housing-specific legislation, and the advocates from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Humane Society of the United States, and the MSCPCA, whose fierce advocacy has helped move this conversation forward. Thank you, Madame President, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this piece of legislation.

Mr. Brownsberger in the Chair, on motion of Ms. Kennedy, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Remarks of Senator Mark C. Montigny.

Thank you, Mr. President.

So, I will attempt to be brief, although this is a subject that many of us in here have worked on for many, many years and could spend a lot of time on. There's lots in the bill and I'm only going to cover the areas that I worked on. One, because I know them well, and two, because there are others who will speak in the process and or in the amendment process about some other very important provisions that are in here. But I do want to say I appreciate that Ways and Means and the President's office has chosen to do essentially an animal protection day.

We tend to do it more often than most in the Senate and I'm very pleased about that. There are some that will say, and I've actually had someone this week say, with all of the difficulty in the world. And of course I pray, I've spent a lot of time in the Middle East. So, I pray for many friends who live there and seem to be in constant hell. We are worried about cost and everyday hearing from people that cannot afford to pay their bills. Yet I had an easy time answering the question when someone said to me this week, what's up with animal day? Pet day? What about us? And I said, well you know let me tell you something. I have more people that speak to me about what we don't do to prevent animal abuse, even then I do hear from constituents that want to help people. And I sometimes conclude almost with tongue in cheek, but not so much, that there are more people who love animals perhaps even than love people. And I say that, of course, tongue in cheek, but I do say this, no matter how busy we are serving our constituents, protecting vulnerable human beings, and we do it every day. We've heard some discussion today on the floor and from the podium on emphasizing

Remarks of
Senator Mark C.
Montigny.

this. We can never be too busy to protect animals because unlike most of the human beings that contact our office, and on the other extreme, the insidious side of special interests that seem to be able to apply their trade in this building so well. Animals have no voice. So if advocates don't come in. If animal owners don't come in. If children, and I've been grilled all week by my son, who is 11, and his friend Emily, because even at their age, in their grade level, they have spent time discussing animal protection and preventing animal abuse. And I'm so proud of, even though they both asked me not to bring them into the debate on the floor, of course you all knew I would. Hearing them speak gives me great hope because when I look at some of the animal abuse cases that have gone on in this nation and in this state, particularly because it's more relevant and closer to our daily lives.

I am stunned that we still have this kind of abuse. That we still have judges who take the laws that we have and seem to completely ignore them. Because I think we've done well actually in this body. I think if you look at, even in this product, we are expanding the tethering law that I wrote with the help of a number of you in this body, including the Minority Leader and several members on both sides of the aisle, actually many, not several. We expand that tethering law here to cover all household pets.

We have saved thousands of dogs' lives in so what we say here is those conditions, those cruel conditions. And if I read the list, you just want to know that this isn't my typical hyperbolic floor speech. Excessive animal waste, garbage, non-potable water, excessive noxious odors, health threats to people or animals, dangerous objects, other animals that could injure and kill, the list goes on and on. And none of it is stuff that you would say it's OK. Did that take place with any animal, not just household pets. And I'll get to my disappointment on farm animals in a moment.

But we're also working, and I'll wait until I discuss amendment #9 because we're working, as we try to do in, here on a compromise.

But I want you all to realize that we have done good work, but we haven't done enough. And even when we do great work, this is where the separation of powers frustrates me. We have judges who put their hand up in a sworn in to uphold the law. We create laws, we hand them off. Regulations are clear, mostly. And we have judges that I wouldn't even suggest their sanction was a slap on the wrist. And I'm talking about horrendous torturing and murdering of animals. They are living beings that give tremendous pleasure to almost everybody in this room, I bet. And yet somehow we fall short. But let me tell you in a very positive way where we don't fall short today.

First, for years, we've been trying to give animal control officers access to places where pets may be in peril. Because remember, we're the only state in the country that has a felony statute not often applied by the judges, certainly not in their sanctions and jail time. They should be applied for the worst cases.

We're the only state in the country who has that statute in the extreme but then has nothing in the middle that says maybe we might be able to get into that home or place before it rises to the level of a felony criminal charge. Because guess what that means? Not only is it perhaps saving somebody the indignity of that outcome, but it's saving the animal before they get to the place where it's gotten that bad. And in most cases, as you all know, I don't need to cite psychological studies. I don't need to act like an expert, or I'm something I'm not.

But I'll tell you what, there's not a whole lot of people arguing when you say animal abuses somehow usually creep towards human abuse and often it exists in their home, both aimed at vulnerable humans and aimed at vulnerable animals. So specifically in this bill, what we do, we combine a couple of bills that I've been filing for years with the help of many in the body Senate 1190, which gives the ACL access to the home. And then there's a fining structure based on, you know, the first offense, on the third offense, actually confiscation of animal results.

Now, of course, if it rises to a level of felony, they're already confiscating the animal. This is a case where we are trying to prevent getting to that form of abuse. I do want to say that in 2018, in the aftermath of a horrendous abuse case on a farm in Massachusetts, we passed the statute expanding it to all domestic animals, particularly in this case, livestock and farms. Again, in this product that's not here, it means we have more work to do.

I'm very hopeful. I'm still engaged in discussions on amendment #9 that we'll come to some compromise. Often times we celebrate good work here and it's not finished. We come back and I certainly will hope that we will complete the work today, but leave you my word that we will work on a compromise, and we'll come back if that compromise is not satisfactory.

I do want to mention another area that's important though, in this bill that's gotten less attention, I think, but not from the animal advocates who are in the building because they're deeply concerned. And that is what I'll call, and again, I understand that it perhaps again, using the word twice is a bit hyperbolic, but I, I look at it akin to vanity torture. Think about it, think about testing animals and it is torture. I mean, this is not just me making up fun words to get your attention. These animals suffer greatly and die.

It's one thing that I won't discuss because I fully understand why medical research is necessary, but it is not necessary for vanity we choose, cosmetics, household cleaning, things that make life easier, chemicals that make life in the household easier. Those are all wonderful things. It's vanity, and we shouldn't be torturing animals so we can feel better about the way we conduct our lives.

We prevent it here, by the way, it's important to say that Massachusetts has companies and labs that actually will work on this issue with non-animal humane modern testing. So, it isn't even necessary. In fact, it isn't efficacious in any way. And yet it still exists and the torture goes on and the death exists when we have alternative methods that are humane.

The good news is more and more companies have been manufacturing and testing labs, have been guilted into a position where they're ceasing to do it and they're finding alternatives. The bad news is we, I never believe, as you know, the Minority Leader and I have stood here many times and talked about how government should get out of any place where the marketplace does a better job. And that's a whole lot of places.

Sorry to disabuse anybody who might have the notion otherwise, but there are places that the private sector cannot, will not and we should not allow them to self-police when the vulnerable human beings are involved, when vulnerable animals are involved, it's our responsibility to make sure regulators do their job, to make sure they have the resources to police and in this case they don't. In this case, in the area of pet protection and preventing animal abuse, we do not have the kind of resources at MDAR or in the local communities to prevent abuse in the household or the farm.

So, I hope we will go further. I hope immediately after the passage of this bill, we will ensure that anybody who's still employing inhumane testing will be forced into alternative testing or they will receive the civil or criminal penalties they deserve.

I'm going to close, Mr. President, for now because I expect that the, the content of my debate on Amendment 9, could shift based on compromise. But I do want to say, looking back over the years, some of you have spent many years in the trenches on animal protection legislation. I'm very proud of what we've done. I'd like to see more of it get to the Governor's desk.

And I'd also like to see judges held accountable for the lax treatment for some reason, even though, as I said early on, partly tongue in cheek, that I hear more often when we pass an animal bill and are commended by many, sometimes then when we do the right thing on broader policy issues. So that's something we should be mindful of and demand it in the judicial system that seems to be falling so short, even when police or an animal control officer or a regulator actually get into witness.

I mean, think about the horrendous farm abuse case where, where the national branch bureaus that went in to clean up the mess after actually said it was one of the worst cases they had ever seen. And I think 26 people were indicted, several were found or pled guilty. And at the end of the day, because of an ethical lapse of a police officer, some of the cases were thrown out. And those people, as far as I know, may very well still have animals under their care. That's falling short. And we can do, we can do better.

But I want to close since I promised that at least once by saying one of the things I'm most proud of is some of the work we've done in the past. We were on this floor not that long ago talking about dangerous tethering, inhumane tethering in the middle of snowstorms all night and we stopped it. And the conditions are incredible. I'm not going to read the list; I'll spare you the rest of it. But I also want to say that in that bill, we also gave people the right, I think it was called the Hot Car Bill, the Hot Dog Bill. At the end of the day, I said, if you see a dog or cat or any animal in a hot car or a cold car and you're really angry, smash the window because we've indemnified you and people will smile and laugh. But I hear stories every day about people who in the past would have been afraid and called 911 and waited 10 minutes. Remember that on an 80° day, it could be 120° in that car. So, you see it, you smash the window. We'll worry about the complaints later. That's what that law did. And this bill in that way references an expansion of the humane tethering in a much broader sense to household pets. So, I'm pleased with it.

Again, I may have to speak later about some places I'm disappointed, that happens. It's not new for me on this floor, but I'm very hopeful because of the spirit that put together this bill in the first place. Thank you, Mr. President. I greatly appreciate all of the members, and I really appreciate my son and his friend. You may think, oh, that's a nice thing. He's doing what every dad does. But they sat through meetings with me and had critique and questions that had me very, very proud, holding my staff and me accountable.

On motion of Mr. Eldridge, under the provisions of Senate Rule 6, the above remarks were printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Pending the question on adoption of the amendment previously recommended by the committee on Ways and Means substituting a new draft entitled "An Act promoting pet equity, treatment and safety" (Senate, No. 3014) and pending the main question on ordering the bill to a third reading, Mr. Keenan moved that the bill be amended by inserting, in section 2, after the word "requirements", in line 12, the following words:- "shall include a requirement that a tenant maintain a renter's insurance policy that provides coverage for an injury or property damage caused by a pet to a third party, and".

5

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Keenan moved that the bill be amended in line 27 by inserting after the word "declared" the following words:- "a nuisance or".

6

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Keenan moved that the bill be amended by inserting, in section 12, after the word "animal", in line 134, the following words:- "or damaging property".

7

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Recess.

There being no objection, at twenty-one minutes past one o'clock P.M., the Chair (Mr. Brownsberger) declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair; and at eight minutes past four o'clock P.M., the Senate reassembled, Ms. Creem in the Chair.

Recess.

Matter Taken Out of the Notice Section of the Calendar.

There being no objection, the following matter was taken out of the Notice Section of the Calendar and considered as follows:

The Senate Bill authorizing the town of Milton to use certain land acquired for conservation purposes for school purposes (Senate, No. 2963),-- **was read a second time, ordered to a third reading, read a third time and passed to be engrossed, its title having been changed by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to read as follows:- “An Act extending the deadline for the town of Milton to appropriate money for the construction of a new school on certain land acquired for conservation purposes”.**

Milton,--
conservation land.

Sent to the House for concurrence.

PAPER FROM THE HOUSE.

A petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5286) of Brian W. Murray relative to specific medical diagnoses of certain children involved with the Department of Children and Families,-- **was referred, in concurrence, under suspension of Joint Rule 12, to the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.**

DCF,-- medical
diagnoses.

Orders of the Day

The Orders of the Day were further considered as follows:

The Senate Bill banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops Senate, No. 2720),-- was further considered, the main question being on ordering the bill to a third reading.

Pet safety.

Messrs. Montigny, Lewis, Collins and Moore, Ms. Howard and Ms. Jehlen moved that the bill be amended in section 7, by striking out, in line 67, the word “and”;

9

In said section 7, by inserting after the word “condition”, in line 69, the following words:- “; and (iii) as applied to a dog, inhumane chaining or tethering at any time, taunting, prodding, hitting, harassing, threatening or otherwise harming a tethered or confined dog, including circumstances that could cause harm to a dog’s physical or emotional health”; and

By inserting after section 12 the following section:-

“SECTION 12A. Section 77 of chapter 272 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word ‘shall’, in line 20, the following words:- (i)(A) for a first offense, be issued a written warning or punished by a fine of not more than \$50; (B) for a second offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$200; and (C) for a third or subsequent offense, be punished by a fine of not more than \$500; provided, however, that for a third or subsequent offense, the animal may be subject to impoundment in a local shelter or appropriate facility at the owner’s, keeper’s, guardian’s or whoever otherwise has the charge or custody of the animal’s expense, pending compliance with this section or the owner, keeper, guardian or whoever otherwise has the charge or custody of the animal may lose ownership or custody of the animal; provided, further, that, a special state police officer appointed under section 57 of chapter 22C or an animal control officer appointed under section 151 of chapter 140, may enforce this clause following the same procedures relating to notice and court procedure in section 21D of chapter 40 for the non-criminal disposition of a violation; and provided, further, that nothing in this clause shall preclude prosecution under this section by sworn law enforcement officers; or (ii).”

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended in section 7, by inserting after the word “condition”, in line 69, the following words:- “; or lack of reasonable opportunity to go outdoors for exercise and waste elimination, based on the animal’s age, size, breed or physical condition; provided, however, that temporary indoor confinement due to illness, injury, disability, inclement weather or other emergency conditions shall not, by itself, constitute cruel conditions”.

11

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mrs. Dooner and Mr. Tarr moved that the bill be amended by adding the following section:-

“SECTION __. Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 174I the following section:-

Section 174J. Animal transfer safety standards.

(a) The commissioner of agricultural resources, in consultation with the commissioner of public health and the colonel of state police, shall establish and maintain a registry of persons convicted of a violation of section 77 of chapter 272.

(b) An animal shelter, humane society, rescue organization, pet shop licensed pursuant to section 39A of chapter 129, breeder licensed pursuant to law, or municipal animal control officer involved in the placement, sale, transfer or adoption of an animal may access the registry for the limited purpose of determining whether a prospective adopter, purchaser, owner or transferee is ineligible to receive an animal pursuant to subsection (c).

(c) A person listed on the registry shall not adopt, purchase, receive or otherwise obtain ownership or possession of an animal for a period of 5 years following the date of the conviction giving rise to inclusion on the registry, unless otherwise ordered by a court.

(d) The commissioner shall promulgate regulations to implement this section, including procedures for inclusion on and removal from the registry, correction of errors, appeals and protection of confidential information.”

The amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Tarr and Ms. Edwards moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section 6 the following 3 sections:-

“SECTION 6A. The introductory paragraph of subsection (a) of section 174D½ of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definitions of ‘Animal rescue organization’ and ‘Animal shelter’ and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

‘Animal rescue organization’, an organization: (i) licensed by the department of agricultural resources under section 39A of chapter 129; or (ii) whose mission and practice includes the placement of abandoned, unwanted, neglected or abused animals that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding sections of the code.

SECTION 6B. Said subsection (a) of said section 174D½ of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the definitions of ‘Product testing facility’ and ‘Research facility’ and inserting in place thereof the following 2 definitions:-

‘Product testing facility’, a facility that uses animals for the testing of consumer products including, but not limited to, cosmetics, pesticides, medical devices and food additives, and ingredients for use in such products.

‘Research institution’, a facility that uses dogs or cats in scientific investigation, experiment, research or instruction, or for the testing of drugs or medicines licensed by the commissioner of public health under section 174D.

SECTION 6C. Said section 174D½ of said chapter 140, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following 4 subsections:-

(b) A research institution or product testing facility shall, after the completion of any testing or research involving a dog or cat that does not require euthanasia of the dog or cat upon the termination of the study as defined and approved by the research or testing protocol, assess the health of the animal and determine whether the dog or cat is suitable for adoption. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), a research institution or product testing facility that intends to euthanize a dog or cat shall, before euthanizing the dog or cat, make a reasonable effort to offer the dog or cat to an animal rescue organization to facilitate the adoption of the dog or cat to a permanent adoptive home. A research institution or product

testing facility shall enter into a collaborative agreement with not less than 1 animal rescue organization to carry out this subsection. Prior to entering into a collaborative agreement with an individual, an animal shelter or an animal rescue organization, a research institution or product testing facility shall review the animal rescue organization's reputation, history of involvement with animal adoption, criminal history and its mission statement. A collaborative agreement shall provide that the parties shall make reasonable efforts to: (i) facilitate permanent adoptions and discourage post-adoption transfers; and (ii) select adopters who demonstrate a willingness and ability to keep the animal permanently and provide an appropriate living space and to accept lifelong responsibility for the animal's care.

(c) A research institution or product testing facility shall not be required to offer a dog or cat to an animal rescue organization pursuant to subsection (b) if the dog or cat: (i) manifests a behavioral or medical defect that poses a risk to the health and safety of the public; (ii) manifests symptoms of a disease, injury or congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects, or is likely to adversely affect, the health of the dog or cat; (iii) is provided to an employee of the research institution or product testing facility for purposes of keeping the dog or cat permanently; or (iv) is a newborn and unsuitable for adoption, or otherwise less than 8 weeks in age and in need of maternal care; provided, however, that the mother is present and able to provide such care. The attending veterinarian of the research institution or product testing facility or the attending veterinarian's designee shall assess the suitability of the dog or cat and determine its availability for adoption under this section.

(d) A research institution or product testing facility that is required to offer dogs and cats for adoption under this section shall not owe a duty of care to an animal rescue organization that accepts a dog or cat or to a person or entity that adopts such dog or cat, through such organizations. A research institution or product testing facility shall not be responsible or liable for any injury, property damage or other damage or loss that results from the adoption or placement of a dog or cat pursuant to this section.

(e) Research institutions and product testing facilities shall, annually, report to the department of agricultural resources data on the use and disposition of dogs and cats after the completion of any testing or research including, but not limited to, the number of dogs and the number of cats that were (i) euthanized upon the termination of the study, as defined and approved by the research or testing protocol; (ii) determined to be suitable and unsuitable for adoption and, if determined to be unsuitable for adoption, the reason why and their disposition; (iii) offered for adoption through a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization; and (iv) offered for adoption directly without entering into a collaborative agreement with an animal rescue organization. The department shall, annually, make such data publicly available on its website."

After remarks, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Tarr and Ms. Edwards moved that the bill be amended by inserting after section _ the following section:-

"SECTION _ . There shall be established a commission to study municipal and state animal control operations in the commonwealth. The commission shall be convened and administered by the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, in conjunction with the department of agricultural resources. The director of the division of animal health, or their designee, shall serve as chair. The commission shall consist of 15 members as follows: the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or their designee; the director of the division of animal health or their designee, who shall serve as chair; and a representative of the department of agricultural resources appointed by the commissioner. The remaining 12 members shall be appointed by the governor; provided, however, that such appointments shall, to the maximum extent practicable, reflect geographic diversity across the commonwealth, including representation from rural, suburban and urban municipalities. The

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governor’s appointments shall include four animal control officers representing a diversity of municipal structures and operational models, including but not limited to town and city animal control departments, full time, part time and per diem positions, regional or inter municipal programs, and officers with and without access to municipal or contracted holding facilities; a chief of police responsible for municipal animal control operations; a representative of a board of health responsible for municipal animal control operations; a representative of a Massachusetts based nonprofit organization that assists animal control officers with in state animals; and four additional members with expertise in municipal operations, animal welfare, public safety or related fields, appointed to ensure balanced representation and subject matter diversity.

The commission shall study the system of animal control in the commonwealth, including but not limited to the operations, responsibilities and activities of municipal animal control officers; statutory and regulatory frameworks governing animal control; the adequacy and availability of holding facilities and other necessary resources; workforce recruitment, retention, training, job classifications and retirement structures; communication and coordination between municipalities and the department of agricultural resources, including disease related notifications; and any other matters the commission deems relevant to the effective functioning of the commonwealth’s animal control system.

The commission, based on its analysis and study, shall make any necessary recommendations to improve said system of animal control with regard to animal welfare and safety, public safety, cost- effectiveness, and the effective and efficient enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations.

Said study, together with such recommendations, shall be filed with the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and the clerks of the House and Senate not later than March 15, 2027.”

After remarks, the amendment was *rejected*.

Mr. Rodrigues moved that the bill be amended in section 12, by inserting after the word “homeowners”, in line 122, the following words:- “or renters”;

10

In said section 12, by striking out, in line 123, the word “homeowner’s”;

In said section 12, by striking out, in line 127, the word “insured’s” and inserting in place thereof the word:- “insured”.

The amendment was adopted.

The Ways and Means amendment, as amended, was then adopted.

The bill (Senate, No. 3014, amended) was then ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

The question on passing the bill to be engrossed was determined by a call of the yeas and nays, at twenty-six minutes before five o’clock P.M., on motion of Mr. O’Connor, as follows to wit (yeas 38 – nays 0) [**Yeas and Nays No. 142**]:

YEAS.

Barrett, Michael J.
Brady, Michael D.
Brownsberger, William N.
Collins, Nick
Comerford, Joanne M.
Creem, Cynthia Stone
Crighton, Brendan P.
Cronin, John J.
Cyr, Julian
DiDomenico, Sal N.
Dooner, Kelly A.

Friedman, Cindy F.
Gómez, Adam
Howard, Vanna
Jehlen, Patricia D.
Keenan, John F.
Kennedy, Robyn K.
Lewis, Jason M.
Lovely, Joan B.
Mark, Paul W.
Miranda, Liz
Montigny, Mark C.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Driscoll, Jr., William J.
Durant, Peter J.
Edwards, Lydia
Eldridge, James B.
Fattman, Ryan C.
Feeney, Paul R.
Fernandes, Dylan A.
Finegold, Barry R.

Moore, Michael O.
O'Connor, Patrick M.
Oliveira, Jacob R.
Payano, Pavel
Rausch, Rebecca L.
Rodrigues, Michael J.
Spilka, Karen E.
Tarr, Bruce E. – **38.**

NAYS – 0.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Rush, Michael F.

Velis, John C. – **2.**

The yeas and nays having been completed at eighteen minutes before five o'clock P.M., the bill was passed to be engrossed [For text of Senate bill, printed as amended, see Senate, No. 3028].

Sent to the House for concurrence.

Reports of Committees.

By Ms. Lovely, for the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, that the Senate Order granting the committee on Public Health until July 31, 2026, within which time to make its final report on current Senate documents numbered 227, 253, 1485, 1491, 1493, 1504, 1524, 1527, 1534, 1544, 1558, 1574, 1600, 1606, 1609, 1613, 1620, 1628, and 2627, relative to public health matters (Senate, No. 2778),-- ought to be adopted.

Public Safety and
Homeland
Security,--
extension order.

The rules were suspended on motion of Mr. Driscoll and, after remarks, the order was considered forthwith and adopted.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Ms. Edwards,--

Ordered, that when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M., and that the Clerk be directed to dispense with the printing of a calendar.

Time of meeting.

On motion of the same Senator, at thirteen minutes before five o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.